NUMB. CCCCLXXXV

The SPECTATOR.

Nihil tam firmum eſt, cui periculum non ſit, etiam ab Invalido. Quint. Curt.

Tueſday, September 16. 1712.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'MY Lord *Clarendon* has obſerv'd, *that few Men have done more Harm than thoſe who have been thought to be able to do leaſt; and there cannot be a greater Error, than to believe a Man whom we ſee qualified with too mean Parts to do Good, to be therefore incapable of doing Hurt. There is a Supply of Malice, of Pride, of Induſtry, and even of Folly, in the Weakeſt, when he ſets his Heart upon it, that makes a ſtrange Progreſs in Miſchief.* What may ſeem to the Reader the greateſt Paradox in the Reflection of the Hiſtorian, is, I ſuppoſe, that Folly which is generally thought incapable of contriving or executing any Deſign, ſhould be ſo formidable to thoſe whom it exerts it ſelf to moleſt. But this will appear very plain, if we remember that *Solomon* ſays, *It is as Sport to a Fool to do Miſchief*; and that he might the more emphatically expreſs the calamitous Circumſtances of him that falls under the Diſpleaſure of this wanton Perſon, the ſame Author adds further, that *A Stone is heavy, and the Sand weighty, but a Fool's Wrath is heavier than them both.* It is impoſſible to ſuppreſs my own Illuſtration upon this Matter, which is, That as the Man of Sagacity beſtirs himſelf to diſtreſs his Enemy by Methods probable and reducible to Reaſon, ſo the ſame Reaſon will fortify his Enemy to elude theſe his regular Efforts; but your Fool projects, acts, and concludes with ſuch notable Inconſiſtence, that no regular Courſe of Thought can evade or counterplot his prodigious Machinations. My Frontiſpiece, I believe, may be extended to imply, that ſeveral of our Misfortunes ariſe from Things, as well as Perſons, that ſeem of very little Conſequence. Into what tragical Extravagancies does *Shakeſpear* hurry *Othello* upon the Loſs of an Handkerchief only? and what Barbarities does *Deſdemona* ſuffer from a ſlight Inadvertency in regard to this fatal Trifle? If the Schemes of all the enterprizing Spirits were to be carefully examined, ſome intervening Accident, not conſiderable enough to occaſion any Debate upon, or give 'em any Apprehenſion of ill Conſequence from it, will be found to be the Occaſion of their ill Succeſs, rather than any Error in Points of Moment and Difficulty, which naturally engaged their matureſt Deliberations. If you go to the Levee of any great Man, you will obſerve him exceeding gracious to ſeveral very inſignificant Fellows; and this upon this Maxim, That the Neglect of any Perſon muſt ariſe from the mean Opinion you have of his Capacity to do you any Service or Prejudice; and that this calling his Sufficiency in Queſtion muſt give him Inclination, and where this is, there never wants Strength or Opportunity to annoy you. There is no Body ſo weak of Invention, that can't aggravate or make ſome little Stories to vilify his Enemy; and there are very few but have good Inclinations to hear 'em, as 'tis infinite Pleaſure to the Majority of Mankind to level a Perſon ſuperior to his Neighbours. Beſides, in all Matters of Controverſy, that Party which has the greateſt Abilities labours under this Prejudice, that he will certainly be ſuppoſed, upon Account of his Abilities, to have done an Injury, when perhaps he has received one. It would be tedious to enumerate the Strokes that Nations and particular Men have ſuffer'd from Perſons very contemptible.

'I think *Henry* IV. of *France*, ſo formidable to his Neighbours, could no more be ſecur'd againſt the reſolute Villany of *Ravillac*, than *Villiers*, Duke of *Buckingham*, could be againſt that of *Felton*. And there is no incens'd Perſon ſo deſtitute, but can provide himſelf with a Knife or a Piſtol, if he finds Stomach to apply 'em. That Things and Perſons of no Moment ſhould give ſuch powerful Revolutions to the Progreſs of thoſe of the greateſt, ſeems a providential Diſpoſition to baffle and abate the Pride of humane Sufficiency; as alſo, to engage the Humanity and Benevolence of Superiors to all below 'em, by letting them into

'into this Secret, That the Stronger depends upon 'the Weaker.

I am,
SIR,
Your very Humble Servant.

Dear Sir, *Temple, Paper-Buildings.*

'I Received a Letter from you ſome Time ago, 'which I ſhould have anſwered ſooner, had 'you inform'd me in yours to what Part of this 'our Iſland I might have directed my Impertinence; but having been let into the Knowledge 'of that Matter, this handſome Excuſe is no longer ſerviceable. My Neighbour *Prettyman* ſhall 'be the Subject of this Letter; who falling in with 'the SPECTATOR's Doctrine concerning the Month 'of *May*, began from that Seaſon to dedicate himſelf 'to the Service of the Fair in the following Manner. I obſerved at the Beginning of the Month 'he bought him a new Night-gown, either Side 'to be worn outwards, both equally gorgeous and 'attractive; but till the End of the Month I did 'not enter ſo fully into the Knowledge of his Contrivance, as the Uſe of that Garment has ſince 'ſuggeſted to me. Now you muſt know that all 'new Cloaths raiſe and warm the Bearer's Imagination into a Conceit of his being a much finer 'Gentleman than he was before, baniſhing all Sobriety and Reflection, and giving him up to Gallantry and Amour. Inflam'd therefore with 'this way of thinking, and full of the Spirit 'of the Month of *May*, did this mercileſs 'Youth reſolve upon the Buſineſs of Captivating. 'At firſt he confin'd himſelf to his Room only, 'now and then appearing at his Window in his 'Night-gown, and practiſing that eaſy Poſture 'which expreſſes the very Top and Dignity of 'Languiſhment. It was pleaſant to ſee him diverſify his Lovelineſs, ſometimes obliging the Paſſengers only with a Side-Face, with a Book in his 'Hand; ſometimes being ſo generous as to expoſe 'the Whole in the Fullneſs of its Beauty; at other Times, by a judicious throwing back his 'Perriwig, he would throw in his Ears. You know 'he is that Sort of Perſon which the Mob call a 'handſome jolly Man; which Appearance can't 'miſs of Captives in this Part of the Town. Being emboldened by daily Succeſs, he leaves his 'Room with a Reſolution to extend his Conqueſts; 'and I have apprehended him in his Night-gown 'ſmiting in all Parts of this Neighbourhood.

'This I, being of an amorous Complection, 'ſaw with Indignation, and had Thoughts of purchaſing a Wig in theſe Parts; into which, being 'at a greater Diſtance from the Earth, I might 'have thrown a very liberal Mixture of white 'Horſe-hair, which would make a fairer, and conſequently a handſomer Appearance, while my 'Situation would ſecure me againſt any Diſcoveries. 'But the Paſſion to the handſome Gentleman, 'ſeems to be ſo well fixed to that Part of the Building, that it will be extremely difficult to divert it 'to mine; ſo that I'm reſolved to ſtand boldly to 'the Complection of my own Eye-brow, and prepare me an immenſe Black-Wig of the ſame ſort 'of Structure with that of my Rival. Now, 'tho' by this I ſhall not, perhaps, leſſen the Number of the Admirers of his Complection, I ſhall 'have a fair Chance to divide the Paſſengers by 'the irreſiſtable Force of mine.

'I expect ſudden Diſpatches from you, with Advice of the Family you are in now, how to deport 'my ſelf upon this ſo delicate a Conjuncture; with 'ſome comfortable Reſolutions in Favour of the 'handſome black Man againſt the handſome fair 'one. *I am,*

SIR,
Your moſt humble Servant,
C

N. B. *He who writ this is a black Man two Pair of Stairs; the Gentleman of whom he writes is fair, and one Pair of Stairs.*

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Only ſay, that it is impoſſible for me to ſay how much I am

Yours,
Robin Shorter.

P. S. 'I ſhall think it a little hard, if you do 'not take as much Notice of this Epiſtle as you 'have of the ingenious Mr. *Short*'s. I am not afraid 'to let the World ſee which is the deeper Man of 'the two.

ADVERTISEMENT.

London, September 15.

Whereas a young Woman on Horſeback, in an Equeſtrian Habit, on the 13th Inſtant in the Evening, met the SPECTATOR *within a Mile and an Half of this Town, and flying in the Face of Juſtice, pulled off her Hat, in which there was a Feather, with the Mein and Air of a young Officer, ſaying at the ſame Time your Servant Mr.* SPEC. *or Words to that Purpoſe; This is to give Notice, that if any Perſon can diſcover the Name, and Place, and Abode of the ſaid Offender, ſo as ſhe can be brought to Juſtice, the Informant ſhall have all fitting Encouragement.*

This Day is publiſh'd,

A New Tranſlation of Corn. Nepos; to which is added, The Lives of the Kings, with their Chronology, omitted in the old Tranſlation; alſo, The Life of Nepos new written. Non plurib impar. Printed for B. Lintott, and ſold by Mr. Churchill and Taylor in Paternoſter-Row, Mr. Knapton, Mr. Wyat, Mr. Knaplo Mr. Midwinter, Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Robertſon, Mr. Clements, a Mr. Bowyer, in St. Paul's Churchyard; Mr. Rogue and Mr. Strah by the Exchange; Mr. Osborn in Lombard-ſtreet; Mr. Cliff Cheapſide, and by Mr. Brown and Mr. Sanger by Temple-Ba Of whom you may have Mr. Gardiner on the Beatitudes, Mad Dacier's Homer, 5 Vol. Dr. Busby's Horace tranſlated, the Earl Lauderdale's Virgil, Dr. Tilly's Sermons, and all the Letters, Poem and Comedies written by th. late ingenious Mr. Farquhar.

An Incomparable pleaſant Tincture to reſtore th Senſe of Smelling, tho' loſt for many Years. A few Drops of whi being ſnuffed up the Note, infallibly cures thoſe who have loſt th Smell, let it proceed from what Cauſe ſoever; it admirably opens manner of Obſtructions of the Olfactory, or ſmelling Nerves, comfo and ſtrengthens the Head and Brain, and revives the Smelling Facul to a Miracle, effectually removing whatever is the Cauſe of the D order of that Senſe, and Perfectly Cures, ſo as to cauſe the Perſon ſmell as quick and well as any one in the World. Price 2 s. 6d. Bottle. Sold only at Mr. Payne's Toy-ſhop at the Angel and Crow in St. Paul's Church-yard near Cheapſide, with Directions.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.